

Message Text

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FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY JULIUS KATZ

FOL REPEAT PANAMA 05833 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO

SAN JOSE SEP 23

QTE

UNCLAS PANAMA 5833

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM: PANAMA TO PERMIT CONSIDERABLE
EXPORTS OF MEAT

REF: PANAMA 5308

SAN JOSE FOR AGATT

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 23 AGREEMENT
WITH NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION TO PERMIT EXPORTATION
THROUGHEND OF 1975 OF 7,000 HEAD OF CATTLE OR EQUIVALENT OF
2.5 MILLION POUNDS OF MEAT BY FIRM CENTRAL AMERICAN BEEF DE
PANAMA. FIRM WILL PAY 24 TO 25 CENTS PER POUND ON THE
HOOF, WHICH IS NEWLY AGREED GUARANTEED PRICE TO PRODUCERS FOR
STEERS UNDER RECENTLY DECREED (AND SOMEWHAT LOWER) RETAIL PRICE
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SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN POPULAR CUTS OF BEEF. FIRM WILL ALSO PAY

\$5.00 PER HEAD TO GOP FOR USE OF CHIRIQUI SLAUGHTERHOUSE. PRESS REPORTS DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF PRICE REGULATION STATED THAT NO GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OF EXPORTS IS CONTEMPLATED. AGRICULTURE MINISTRY HAS NOW ORDERED SUSPENSION OF ALL MEAT IMPORTS.

2. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ZUBIETA) CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF DETAILS OF AGREEMENT INDICATED ABOVE. HE STATED THAT EXPORTER NOW HOPED TO SHIP THIS AMOUNT OF MEAT TO US, FILLING REMAINDER OF 1975 VOLUNTARY QUOTA, APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILLION POUNDS, PLUS "HOPED-FOR ALLOCATION OF QUOTA SHORTFALL AT END OF YEAR." EMBOFF GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT CONCERNING LATTER POSSIBILITY. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS EXPORT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH AGRICULTURE MINPSTRY.
JORDAN

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